

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1 and 3-11.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hosking, and the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection over Eklund.

In the present invention, as set forth in claim 12, a partial reinforcing apparatus for reinforcing a part of metal material includes a front punch having a planar press surface, and a rear punch having a planar press surface, for nipping and pressing the metal material. A rotation means rotates the front and rear punches in opposite directions, respectively, about an axis. Applicant has amended claim 12 to recite more clearly these features of the invention.

Neither Hosking nor Eklund disclose planar press surfaces for nipping and pressing metal material. In Eklund, as can be seen, e.g., in Fig. 1, the opposing press surfaces are arcuate, not planar. In Hosking, as can be seen, e.g., in Fig. 4, the opposing press surfaces are serrated, defining “ratchet teeth” 4a and 5a (col. 2, line 81). Lacking at least this feature of claim 12, neither reference anticipates claim 12 under § 102(b).

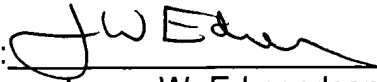
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of claim 12, and the timely allowance of all of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 7, 2006

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